

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

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FOR USMBFR DEL

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 33416 ACTION NATO INFO ALL NATO
CAPITALS 20 FEB

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 033416

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO 25TH ANNIVERSARY AND SPRING MINISTERIAL
MEETING

REF: (A) USNATO 775; (B) USNATO 773

1. WE APPRECIATE PRESSURES, REPORTED REFTELS, THAT ARE
MOUNTING FOR DECISIONS ON DATE FOR 25TH ANNIVERSARY
GATHERING, AND WHETHER A SEPARATE MINISTERIAL MEETING
SHOULD BE SCHEDULED IN ADDITION TO POSSIBLE SUMMIT MEETING
MARKING ANNIVERSARY. PARTICULARLY, WE CAN UNDERSTAND
DESIRES OF MINISTERS TO FIX DATES SO THEY CAN ARRANGE
THEIR CALENDARS FOR THE SPRING MONTHS.

2. WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION AT THIS STAGE TO SUGGEST
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DATES FOR THE MEETINGS AT WHICH THE US-EC AND NATO

DECLARATIONS WOULD BE SIGNED. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR HOW THE NINE WILL WISH TO PROCEED IN ADDRESSING THE US-EC TEXT, AND WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN NO DEFINITE DATE FOR RECEIVING THE REVISED VERSION. AT THE SAME TIME, THE NATO DECLARATION APPEARS TO BE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, AND IT IS POSSIBLE TO ENVISAGE RESOLUTION OF THE OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES FAIRLY SOON. STILL TO BE RESOLVED, HOWEVER, ARE THE QUESTIONS OF VENUE AND OF PARTICIPATION IN THE CEREMONIES FOR SIGNATURE OF THE NATO TEXT AND US-EC

TEXTS. THUS, UNTIL THE TEXTS ARE MORE FULLY DEVELOPED, AND PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE SET, IT PROBABLY WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO FIX FIRM DATES AND SITES.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE PACE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TWO TEXTS WILL BE DEPENDENT TO SOME EXTENT ON THE FIXING OF TARGET DATES FOR SIGNATURE OF THE DECLARATIONS. AS THE SECRETARY INDICATED TO THE MINISTERS IN DECEMBER, WE ARE PREPARED TO THINK IN TERMS OF AN APRIL DATE FOR THE NATO ANNIVERSARY GATHERING AT THE SUMMIT. SINCE EASTER FALLS ON APRIL 14, A GATHERING IN THE SECOND WEEK OF APRIL WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE. THE OECD MINISTERIAL TENTATIVELY SET FOR APRIL 22-24 WOULD MAKE DIFFICULT MEETINGS ON THOSE DATES, BUT WOULD NOT RULE OUT A NATO SUMMIT AND A MEETING WITH THE NINE DURING THAT WEEK. THEREFORE, FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, WE BELIEVE THAT YOU SHOULD STEER NAC DISCUSSION IN THE DIRECTION OF A DECISION IN PRINCIPLE THAT THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE DURING THE LAST TWO WEEKS IN APRIL.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE ISSUE OF WHETHER A MINISTERIAL MEETING WILL BE REQUIRED THIS SPRING, IN ADDITION TO A POSSIBLE SUMMIT GATHERING, WE WISH TO LEAVE OPEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT MINISTERS COULD MEET IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO A SUMMIT SESSION TO RESOLVE ANY REMAINING DIFFERENCES IN THE NATO TEXT, AND PERHAPS TO DISCUSS ANY OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES PRIOR TO THE SUMMIT MEETING OFFICIALLY MARKING THE ANNIVERSARY. THIS SESSION OF MINISTERS, WE ENVISAGE, WOULD TAKE PLACE ON THE EVE OF THE SUMMIT, AND

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NOT ON APRIL 4, THE ANNIVERSARY DATE. THE ANNIVERSARY, IN OUR VIEW, WOULD BE CELEBRATED BY THE NAC SESSION AT SUMMIT LEVEL.

5. CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF A MINISTERIAL MEETING IN MAY OR JUNE, WE SEE NO NEED FOR IMMEDIATE DECISION, THOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS CREATES SOME DIFFICULTIES FOR MINISTERS IN FIRING UP THEIR SPRING CALENDARS. IT

WOULD BE PREFERABLE IN OUR VIEW TO REVIEW THE ISSUES WHICH MAY REQUIRE MINISTERIAL ATTENTION LATER THIS SPRING, AND THEN TO REACH A DECISION IN NAC WHETHER, FOR EXAMPLE, CSCE PREPARATIONS AND OTHER ITEMS OF EAST-WEST AND OTHER BUSINESS WARRANT AN ADDITIONAL MEETING OF MINISTERS.

6. IN SETTING FORTH OUR VIEWS ALONG THE FOREGOING LINES, YOU SHOULD AVOID ANY FIRM COMMITMENTS AT THIS STAGE, AND

REMIND SYG LUNS AND PERMREPS THAT WE CONTINUE TO ATTACH MORE IMPORTANCE TO ACHIEVING EFFECTIVE SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS FROM THE DECLARATIONS THAN TO THE DATE OF THEIR SIGNATURE.

7. FOR ALL NATO CAPITALS: YOU SHOULD NOT DRAW ON ABOVE UNTIL WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO REVIEW NAC AND OTHER PERMREP DISCUSSIONS.

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